

# New area code in place for Ogden, Salt Lake, and Provo



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SALT LAKE CITY, OGDEN, PROVO, Utah - The days of dialing only seven numbers for a local phone call will soon end in Salt lake, Ogden and Provo as the Utah Public Service Commission adds the new 385 area code which means the future of the phone means ten digit dialing for callers living on the Wasatch front.

"Too many phones...too few numbers," said Chris Luras from the Utah Division of Public Utilities. Luras said the explosion of cell phones has used up all the possible seven digit number combinations in Utah's 801 area code, so the public service commission added the new 385 code. "It is due to the population growth and the alternate uses of phones in the past few years," Luras said.

If you live between Ogden and Payson and currently have the 801 area code you get to keep it. But if you get a new phone number it will come with the new 385 code.

Having the 801 and 385 codes in the same area also means more button pushing. Starting June 1, 2008 callers will have to punch in the entire 10 digit code for local numbers, even the house next door. "Every time now, it's like being in California," said Salt Lake resident Paul Sturgis.

Qwest and other phone providers sent out letters to customers letting them know about the change. They said the mixture of 801 and 385 and the ten digit dialing will bring a new challenge for phone users. "It's going to be complicated," said Qwest phone customer Paul Mendenhal. "My wife thinks dialing ten numbers will be a problem, but I think it will work."

But 71 year old Salt Lake resident Tom Woods isn't worried. He's never owned a telephone and says he never will. "To me a telephone is an invasion of privacy," Wood said. "People call you up all hours, you know sitting down to eat you get a phone call, so I never messed with it and I never really needed one."

Phone customers in the 801 area can start dialing the ten digit numbers on June 1, 2008 but the seven digit numbers will continue to work until March of 2009. The public service commission did that to give phone users time to get used to the change.

If you currently live in the 435 area code, take it easy, nothing changes for you. Those in the 435 area keep the same code and only have to dial seven digits for local calls, at least for now.

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